

# MISSION MARION

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October is Minister Appreciation Month!

This is a special time that congregations set aside each year to honor their pastoral staff and their families for the hard work, sacrificial dedication and multiple blessings provided by these special people. Being a pastor is no cakewalk. It's more than writing sermons and having coffee with people. It's doing funerals, counseling struggling couples, praying for someone who was just diagnosed with cancer; it's working on cost efficient building plans and manageable budgets. Pastoring God's people is hard work—it's a high calling for a reason.



This high calling of pastoring the local church is emotionally, spiritually and even physically stressful at times. So what can we do? How can we support the leaders of our local churches? How can we show them our appreciation and encourage them as they fulfill the calling the Lord has given them? How can you encourage your pastor and church leaders?

#### 1. Pray For Them.

What better way for you to uplift your pastor and church leaders than through approaching the throne of grace with confidence? Pray for their emotional well-being, their physical strength, their spiritual wellness and any specific needs you know.

#### 2. Write Them Encouraging Letters.

Letters of encouragement are true treasures to a pastor. But what should we write? Simply thank them for their time and dedication. Share some scripture to encourage them. Tell them how the Lord has been using their ministry to make you more like Jesus. Your pastor and church leaders will appreciate anything encouraging in this discouraging time that we live in.

#### 3. Serve In The Church.

Churches are always looking for volunteers. Willing hands and warm hearts are so needed in the local church. Any service you offer will be helpful for your church leaders. Simply ask where help is needed and be willing to be a faithful servant.

#### 4. Give Generously.

Giving is usually a pretty sensitive topic in church. The pastor doesn't want to appear to be campaigning for a higher salary, and the church is sometimes wary to give more than is comfortable. I promise you, most pastors aren't in ministry for the money. You can show your appreciation for your pastor and church leaders by giving generously and viewing your gifts as an act of worship, not merely ministry maintenance.

#### 5. Encourage Their Families.

Leading a church can take a toll on the pastor, but often we forget that the pastor's family feels the toll of ministry as well. Encourage the families of your church leaders in much the same way you encourage your church leaders.

#### 6. Speak Well Of The Church.

One of the most discouraging parts about being a pastor is hearing God's people talk bad about each other. Don't gossip about the Bride of Christ! Speak of the Bride of Christ as you would like someone to speak of your spouse.

October is Minister Appreciation Month. Don't just give a card—be an encourager.

God Bless You Always,  
Bro. Keith  
Phil. 4:13

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

#### National Collection Week

November 15 - 22



#### Drop-off Locations:

##### Hines Baptist Church

Contact: Courtney Cochran  
205-269-5380

##### Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Contact: Rebecca Chandler  
205-528-1062



## October is Minister Appreciation Month



### Calendar of Events

#### OCTOBER

##### MINISTER APPRECIATION MONTH

- 3 Men's Prayer Gathering
- 12 MCBA Annual Meeting, FBC Hamilton
- 13 Fields of Faith, Guin Football Field
- 24 Planning Meeting for Wild Game Dinner, Association Office

#### NOVEMBER

- 7 Men's Prayer Gathering
- 16 Alabama Baptist State Convention  
Whitesburg, Huntsville (16-17)
- 25 Thanksgiving Day (Office closed 25-26)
- 28 International Missions Emphasis &  
Lottie Moon Offering (28-Dec. 5)

#### DECEMBER

- 4 MCBA Christmas Banquet
- 5 Executive Committee Meeting
- 25 Christmas Day (Office closed 24-31)